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ARTHUR BRISBANE, Editor and Owner

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### Looking Ahead

You Cannot See Very Clearly, but Some Things Are  
Plain Enough to Talk About.

The new year, to which all the world looked forward and that promises so much, is fairly begun. What will it give to this earth in permanent betterment?

The President of the United States for the first time in our history is traveling, observing, discussing and planning for a better world for everybody. Far in the distance are the warnings of Washington and Jefferson against "foreign entanglements." The United States is entangled everywhere and with everything on the earth's surface. A few months ago our statesmen, resolved to withdraw from the Philippines and leave the natives to manage their problems. Today our soldiers are in Russian Siberia, shooting and being shot in the effort to teach the Russians how to manage their internal affairs. Just why they are there, how long they will stay in the country, isn't told as yet. That is a long-distance "entanglement" surely.

Our men are in Germany and in Poland. We are planning with Italy and the Jugo-Slavs to help them settle the question of disputed territory on the east coast of the Adriatic.

We are discussing with England and France the cessation of armaments, the creation of only one great international fleet flying many flags, French, English, German, American, and acting as a world police to prevent war.

Failing that, we are threatening, if any nation is to have "the biggest fleet," that we shall build it and have it. We mean it and can do it, for while ship fighting is a matter of mind and courage, in which, by the way, Americans have excelled, shipbuilding is a matter of money, and we can have the biggest fleet if we want to.

The money that England alone owes us would build a fleet twice the size of England's fleet. The amount that all the allies owe us would reproduce the British navy four times.

All that vast debt due from our friends across the water we talk of forgiving and wiping out in some of our national generous impulses. Surely we can have the biggest fleet if we want to, and already Secretary Daniels has made plans and asked for appropriations that will put our fleet ahead of England's as England's fleet stands today.

The sun of autocracy is setting, the Czar dead, the Kaiser in exile, dozens of little Kings and Princes driven from their thrones and the Kings remaining mere public employees kept on the payroll at their people's pleasure. At a hint they would step down.

Autocracy on the throne is a thing of past history. But what about other autocracy, that of the mob which rules in Russia, two hundred thousand Bolsheviks, as Lenin himself says, ruling with the iron hand of murder one hundred and thirty millions, nearly all illiterate and hopeless? A little while ago they dreamed of happiness and freedom. If they could get rid of their Czar and call themselves free.

What about the autocracy that keeps its soldiers of gold or credit locked up in banks—economical soldiers that bear interest and eat nothing while waiting to be put to work? What about the autocratic power behind the check book, whose subjects never see its face, as the ancient Japanese never saw the face of the Mikado, but who feel its force and its power of taxation, taking a tyrannical share from every dollar spent? Military autocracy that has five hundred foolish uniforms hanging in its wardrobe, that starts out to conquer the earth in a preposterous dream of vanity and ends in disgrace, as the Kaiser ends, is only one kind of autocracy. There are many others. Are any of them contained as yet invisible within the bright rising sun "democracy," welcomed by the earth as its salvation, with the beginning of this new year?

The greatest war in the world's history is over, and the greatest menace to the world's peace removed. How often has that been said on this earth? It was said—when the Greeks conquered the Persians.

When Rome defeated Hannibal and when Carthage was destroyed.

When Charles the Hammer broke the Moslem peril at the battle near the Pyrenees. When we established our right to freedom here, after 1776.

When the Union was re-established in the Civil War. A thousand times, ten thousand times, in the history of the world it has been said, and said truly, and yet it has to be said all over again.

The Hungarians said it when they rendered a service to all Europe and stopped the westward march of the Turks. All Eastern Europe said it when Attila died and his hordes retired. Japan said it when Russia, defeated, had to rely on clever bargaining in America for the best peace she could get. How many times must it be said over again, in battles between nations, in battles between classes, between organized government and anarchy, as in Russia, between public rights and financial piracy, as in so many other countries?

A little more than a hundred years ago Jefferson and Washington breathed deep, thinking that all was well with this country. It had only to stay out of "foreign entanglements," and now we are as thoroughly entangled in foreign affairs as any kitten in a ball of yarn. We are not only mixed in; we are the chief mixer.

Wherever there is trouble the nations say to Uncle Sam, "You fix it. You came in late. You should not mind staying in a little later. You began spending late; you won't mind spending a little longer."

We are to have our problems at home, with Mexico

## ONE SETS--ONE RISES

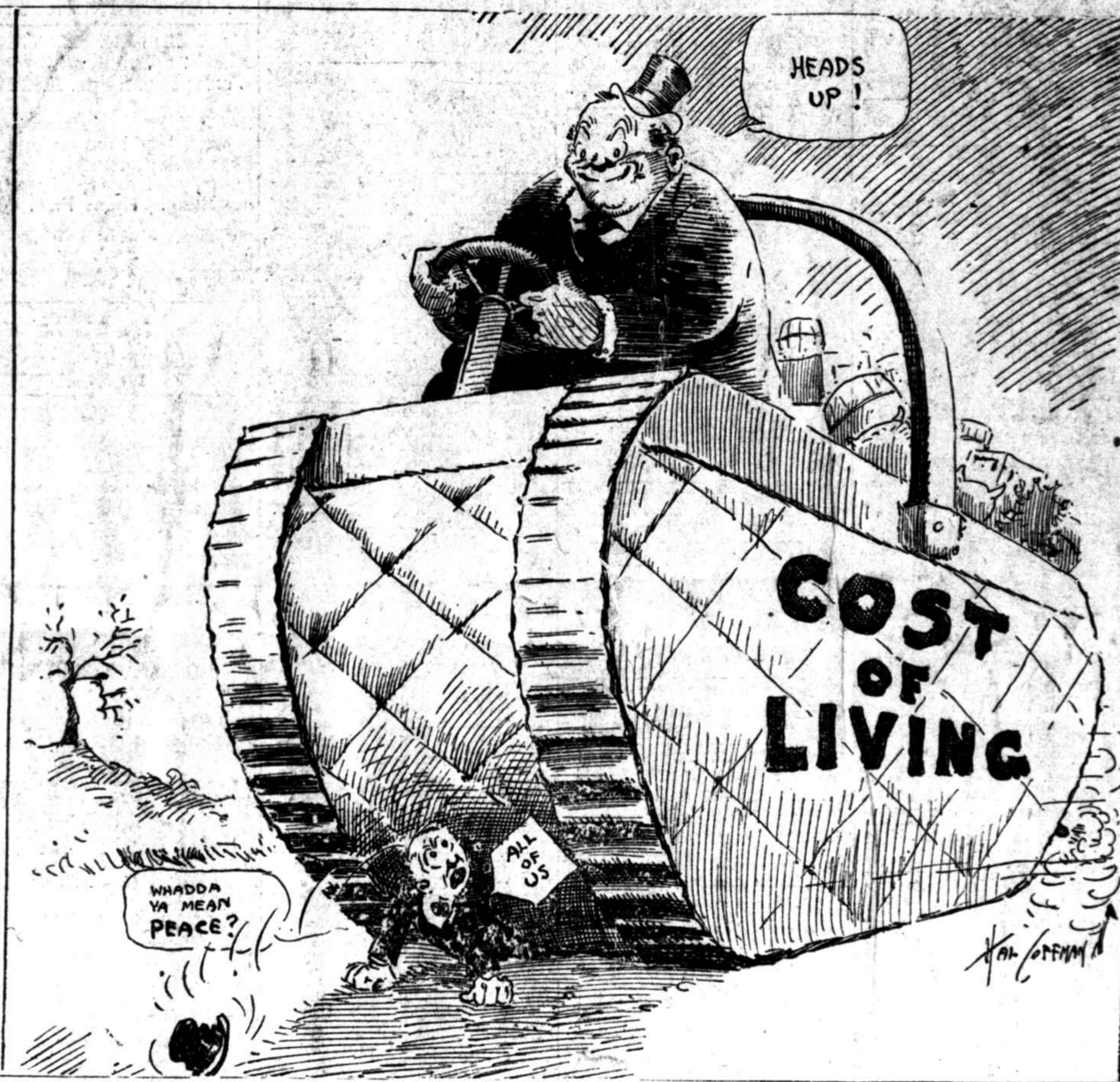


Is This to Be the Permanent Setting of Autocracy? Will Democracy Rise to the Zenith and Stay There? Or Must the Story of the Ages Be Repeated for Centuries to Come? Good Government Following Bad Government, and Then Bad Government Following Good Government, the People Learning Their Lessons Slowly Through the Years, Going Forward and Upward, Fall-

ing Back After Each Advance, but Always Gaining a Little? A Thousand Times Men

Have Bid Farewell to Bad Government Disappearing and Welcomed Rising Better Conditions. And a Thousand Times They Have Been Disappointed. How Many More Risings and Settings of the Sun Before Men Shall Have Solved Their First Simple Problem, Self-Government, and Begun Their Real Work, the Development of the Earth and Its Full Possibilities?

## Still Treating 'Em Rough



confiscating American property and asking us what, if anything, we mean to do about it. We look toward Peru and Chile, that may be fighting at any moment, Peru saying, "Chile must give me back my nitrate lands," as France said "Germany must give me back my provinces." The sun of democracy rises, and as it rises its extending rays light new difficulties and problems in every corner of the earth.

The friends of liberty and real freedom are heard, but not speaking more eloquently or earnestly than were the Gracchi when they spoke more than two thousand years ago. What horrors lie between us and them—all the false grandeur and horrid misery of Roman rule, the black ignorance and hideous torture of the Dark Ages. Every century saw its protest, its hope, its disappointment. How will the sun set that is rising now? How many times will future history say, "This is the beginning of real democracy. This is the era of peace on earth and good will toward men?"

Looking at the world from day to day, conditions seem dark on every page of history, past and present. But skip from century to century—centuries are the short chapters of history—and you find better conditions, the light brighter with every chapter. Here cannibalism disappears, later slavery, later serfdom, still later torture of witnesses and burning alive in the name of Christianity. Fifty years ago you find selfish prosperity vainly denouncing free education for all children, food for their minds. A little later in our day you find the same class protesting against free food for the children in school.

The blindness that protested against the right of the people to own their own bodies, and then to own their land, protests now against the people's right to own their public necessities, that they alone create and supply.

Every upward step is contested, but each upward step is taken when the time comes, at a cost of millions of lives sometimes, as in the recent war; at a cost of the blood of martyrs at other times, at a cost of disappointment and humiliation always for leaders ahead of their time.

Men dreamed that they would fly, and now they do fly.

They dream of perfect government, of absolute democracy, each doing his full share, each having enough, none wanting more. And they will attain that democracy when the time comes.

That it has not come yet and may not come for centuries need discourage no man. For we live only a few years. Men have achieved freedom from absolute despotism, at least. Their lives can be made bearable if they will make the effort. And lives are short. We need not worry about the centuries that came before us, or the centuries of slow progress that are to come after.

We may have suffered through those past centuries and may be destined to suffer here on earth in other bodies through the coming centuries. If so, we shall live to see the perfected civilization. It will be worth the waiting.

Are not some individual men and women sufficiently developed now for real civilization? Perhaps. Are not some races sufficiently developed? Probably not. You will not find a gallow or a prison in the land after real civilization shall have reached it.

It must be remembered that the human race has not reached the point indicated by the scientist who explores space and numbers stars, or by the philanthropist who devotes his energies and fortune to the unhappy, poor and ignorant. To know what the human race is, how far it has gone, take your average.

Pick out the human half way behind the highest civilized being and the lowest savage able to count only four, halfway between Newton and Barnum's "What Is It?" and you will have the present day civilization.

Your average human, standing midway between the lowest type of the lowest savage tribe and the highest human mind, would be about equal to one of the most illiterate, rough millions of Russian or Balkan peasants.

Humanity is only as high as its average. Under the circumstances it is doing pretty well, for it is far nearer to savagery than civilization.

No man need worry about that if he does his share to help the onward march.

## HEARD AND SEEN

By EARL GODWIN.

For our schools we pay about a third of our taxes (at least that was the way the proportion stood the last time I looked into it). We have in the District of Columbia as fine a plant for educating the boys and girls of the National Capital as we could wish. As a plant for turning out good and wholesome education for boys and girls we are in very good shape.

Now we use that plant five hours a day for five days a week for nine months a year, with a scattering of off-days in between.

Our educational plant, then, is SHUT DOWN MORE HOURS A YEAR than it is in use. If it were a steel plant, you could express that inefficiency in dollars, which is something we all comprehend, but I am unable to find an adequate expression to describe the loss in POWERS entailed by the present situation regarding the shut-down schools.

Our night schools offset the loss to some extent, but the greatest example of 100 per cent use of a school building is found in the WILSON NORMAL COMMUNITY CENTER, operating at full blast in the Wilson Normal School. That, of course, is a wonderful school building, adapted for the widest use of the broader educational idea. Under the leadership of EDGAR C. SNYDER, president, this community center is going ahead doing BIG things for the National Capital and for the nation at large.

The building is used as a real cen-

ter for that big neighborhood surrounding the Wilson Normal School. It is a thickly populated, INTELLIGENT neighborhood. Nearly everyone in that neighborhood is doing something to be a bigger and better citizen.

More than a thousand men and women use the school building at nights for study, reading, or recreation. Trained teachers employed by the association are giving men and women who work by day an opportunity to LEARN by night. All kinds of subjects are taught. The entire atmosphere of the place is one of betterment and mutual help.

I am told by President Snyder that the Bureau of Education of the United States has taken the constitution of this center as a model and has sent it out broadcast to other communities where there is a chance of co-ordinating the community spirit. Also the Wilson Normal Community Center is the first community center in the United States to be incorporated.

So in the use to which the Wilson Normal School is put you see the possibility of a 100 per cent use of the entire school plant. If you had three million dollars a year to spend on a FACTORY, you wouldn't expect real returns if you closed it up nineteen hours of the day for five days, twenty-four hours a day for two days for a stretch of nine months, and then for three months closed it up entirely.

## JUST ABOUT PEOPLE

FRANK R. WILSON, director of publicity for the Liberty loan, used to be the organist in a country church in Iowa.

JOSEPH F. MULQUEEN, Jr., son of Justice Mulqueen, of New York, is in town in Government work. When I saw him he was engaged in a fiercely contested game of dominoes.

My old and trusty friend, COL. E. LESTER JONES, is back from the wars.

Now that GEORGE CREEL is about to leave the Committee on Public Information, I have many demands that as a fade-away act he republish the text of the wonderful story of that July 4 naval battle that never occurred.

Which reminds me of Robert Southey's famous lines: "And everybody praised the duke, Who did the great fight win." "And what good came of it at last?" Quoth little Peterkin. "You'll have to ask George Creel," said he. "But 'twas a famous victory."

HIS MASTER'S VOICE, MAYBE. "Now that you have virtually disposed of the first moving-picture show," says FRANK HUGHES, "let me ask if you can determine upon the first talking machine ever heard in Washington. My recollection is that the first one was heard thirty-five years ago in Curtis Hall, Georgetown. It was a tin-foil cylinder affair and the first record was that of a barking dog."

Curtis Hall was in the Curtis School, and B. T. JANNEY was principal.

JOE CANNON, of Danville, Ill., has been to New York lately and complains of difficulty in getting about on the new subway. Gosh, he ought to try to get somewhere on the Berwyn line.

JIMMIE HUSTER, by the way, suggests that the Anacostia line be called the Banana R. R., inasmuch as it is operated in bunches.

SECRETARY REDFIELD, and his side partner, LEE THURMAN, and some chap from the War Industries Board went out to the Bureau of Standards the other day and the guard at the entrance held the whole bunch up. "You gotta show a pass," said he, real rough.

Whereupon the Secretary of the Department of Commerce fished all through his pockets, and producing some sort of a card, showed it to the guard. Now LEE THURMAN says the guard turned pale at the sight of the BIG BOSS. But they all say that when telling this type of a story, and just for a change I'm going to assume that he didn't turn pale at all. So there.

Who Remembers? The good old days in the Postoffice Department when penknives were given the clerks as Christmas gifts and they were allowed to take half days off between Christmas and New Year, the clerks alternating, doing the work of the other man while he was off enjoying himself?

When Mrs. Langtry, the "Jersey Lily," played an engagement at Ford's Theater, at the Louisiana market space?

When CHASE laid the foundation for his popularity by serving his theater patrons with ice cream during the intermission of the performances?

Wonder if the peace conference can't provide a little of this self-determination for the residents of the District of Columbia?

From Cl., Please Read. I see by the papers that the Board of Trade and others are indulging in that inexpensive sport of indulging a proposition. This time it is the endorsement of a parade to our returning heroes.

Please let me beg the gentlemen who so cheerfully and inexpensively endorse this perfectly fine parade the true test of their endurance and patriotic worth will come when the veterans ask them for WORK.

In other words, please do more than cheer. Offer them JOBS.

Here's a new way to quote it: "A wolf in cheap clothing."

## What's Doing; Where; When

Today.  
Hike—Wanderers walk from Forest Glen to Kensington and Garrett Park and return, starting at 2:30 o'clock.  
Meeting—New Thought Association, "Facing," Connecticut avenue and I. street northwest, 4:30 p. m.  
Union Service—The Presbytery of Washington at New York Avenue Church, 4:30 p. m.  
Lecture—By Miss Holbrook at Theosophical Hall, 1114 H street northwest at 8 and 9 p. m.  
Meeting—Free Thought Secular League, 3 p. m. at Pythian Temple.  
Lecture—"The Millennium," at Shubert-Garrick Theater, 7 p. m. by Carlisle H. Haynes.  
Lecture—Albert Einstein on "L'Alacaz," before members of Washington Club, 4:30 p. m.  
Concert—U. S. Soldiers Home Band, Stanley Hall, 8:15 p. m.